

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 7-10, 15-17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled herein, rendering their rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19 are indicated to present allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner has rejected such claims under 35 USC 112 as unsupported by the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree. While it is not clear from the Examiner's Office Action as to what portion of claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19 are deemed by the Examiner to be unsupported by the application as filed, Applicants' position is that the pending claims are fully supported by the specification under 35 USC 112. The specification is specifically clear that the base rod to leg connection is a rotational adjustment in order to vary the angle and distance of separation between the legs relative to each other. See, for example, page 2, line 14 et. seq. Moreover, on page 7, lines 31 et seq., it is recited:

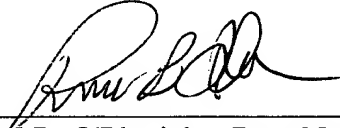
At least one end of the rod is threaded, with the threads extending a substantial distance along the length of the rod. The leg 12 or 14 to be mounted at the threaded end is secured to a threaded nut and then the leg 12 or 14 is threaded onto the rod to the desired position and locked into place with a locking nut. The remaining leg 14 or 12 may likewise be secured to the other end of the rod if both ends of the rod are threaded, or the leg 14 or 12 may be fixedly secured to the other end of the rod by means such as welding or other known securing techniques. The distance between the legs may be quickly changed, by varying the distance upon which the leg 12 or 14 is threaded onto the rod, to form a new configuration or one or both legs 12, 14 may be quickly replaced with a leg of a new configurations to achieve a new hose configuration.

The connection along a rod that is threaded a substantial distance clearly allows for a rotation of the leg 12 or leg 14 (or both) around the rod in a 360 degree sweep. The specification specifically envisions one or both legs can rotationally move in a circular (i.e. lateral direction) relative to the rod and relative to the opposite leg. The distance between the

legs is thus changed and the rods may form a plurality of new configurations pursuant to the needs of the user. Thus, there is support for the language of claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19, in particular the independent rotational relationship of each leg to member 11 that facilitates independent rotational adjustment of such leg relative to the opposite leg.

In view of the above and the Examiner's indication that such claims contain allowable subject matter, allowance of all pending claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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